United Nations S/2005/89

Security Council

Distr.: General
18 February 2005

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Somalia

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to the statement of the President of the Security Council of 31 October 2001 (S/PRST/2001/30), in which the Council requested me to submit reports on a quarterly basis on the situation in Somalia. The report focuses on developments regarding the national reconciliation process in Somalia since my previous report, of 8 October 2004 (S/2004/804). It also provides an update on the security situation as well as the humanitarian and development activities of United Nations programmes and agencies in Somalia.

II. The formation of the Transitional Federal Government

2. The Somali National Reconciliation Conference concluded on 14 October 2004 with the swearing-in of Colonel Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed as the President of Somalia. He was elected by the members of the Transitional Federal Parliament of Somalia on 10 October 2004 after three rounds of voting. In the final round, Colonel Yusuf obtained 189 votes while the runner-up candidate, Abdullahi Ahmed Addow, obtained 79 votes. Mr. Addow accepted the outcome and pledged to cooperate with the President. Prior to the vote, all 26 presidential candidates signed a declaration to support the elected President and to demobilize their militias.

3. On 3 November, President Yusuf appointed Ali Mohammed Gedi, a veterinarian and member of the Hawiye clan, predominant in Mogadishu, as Prime Minister of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia.

4. During the first week of December, Prime Minister Gedi announced the appointment of some 73 Ministers, Ministers of State and Assistant Ministers. However, Members of Parliament criticized the appointments as not in line with the "4.5 formula" for clan representation that was followed during the Conference. Moreover, the Speaker of Parliament was absent from the swearing-in ceremony. On 11 December, the Parliament passed a vote of no confidence in the Government for violating articles 12 and 49 of the Transitional Federal Charter, which required parliamentary approval of the Prime Minister's appointment and the appointment of the Cabinet.

5. Respecting the will of the Parliament, President Yusuf, after consultations with the Speaker of Parliament, Sharif Hassan Sheikh Adan, announced at a joint press

conference in Nairobi on 13 December that he would submit the nomination of Mr. Gedi as Prime Minister to Parliament for endorsement.

6. On 23 December, the Parliament endorsed Prime Minister Gedi's appointment. On 13 January, the Parliament approved the new Cabinet proposed by Prime Minister Gedi (actually the old one expanded), composed of 92 Ministers, Assistant Ministers and Ministers of State. The Prime Minister responded to criticism about the unusually large number of appointments by saying that they were necessary to ensure inclusivity.

7. The Cabinet, meeting for the first time on 15 January, created committees to handle cooperation with the international community and to work on the Transitional Federal Government's relocation from Kenya to Somalia. On 19 January, the committees submitted their reports to the Cabinet on the Government's relocation to Somalia.

8. The Transitional Federal Government presented its relocation plan to the Coordination and Monitoring Committee (see para. 11 below) on 2 February. With donor support, the Government expects the plan to be implemented over a period of three months starting in mid-February. The estimated budget for implementation of the plan amounts to some €94,375,572. The plan covers the following steps: (a) relocation to Somalia of 987 people including members of the Transitional Federal Government, Members of Parliament and delegates to the Somali National Reconciliation Conference; (b) peacebuilding and reconciliation through the organization of peacebuilding conferences in 92 districts; (c) establishment of provisional regional and district administrations until the federal structure is fully realized; (d) encampment and retraining of 53,000 militia members; and (e) formation of a police force of 10,000. Although donors welcomed the plan, they underlined the need to further clarify its budgetary and programmatic details. A joint committee of donors, United Nations agencies and the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) was established to work on the relocation proposal.

9. Two Somali parliamentary delegations, composed of a total of 73 Members of Parliament and led by the Speaker and Second Deputy Speaker, arrived in Mogadishu on 6 February to discuss security and relocation issues with local leaders, clan elders and other stakeholders. Thousands of Somalis reportedly flocked into the streets to welcome the delegations. The visits were supported by the United Nations Trust Fund for Peacebuilding in Somalia, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the European Commission. In addition to its significant financial support for the Somali National Reconciliation Conference, the European Commission has given a $2 million grant to the Association of West European Parliamentarians for Africa to provide immediate support and training for the Transitional Federal Parliament.

10. President Yusuf and Prime Minister Gedi, while still residing in Nairobi, have undertaken a number of diplomatic missions to countries of the region. Late in October, President Yusuf visited Ethiopia, where he held talks with the Chairman of the African Union (AU), Alpha Oumar Konaré, and requested AU to send 15,000 to 20,000 peacekeeping troops to Somalia. He also discussed European Union assistance to the Transitional Federal Government with Javier Solana, the European Union High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, who was visiting Ethiopia. At a joint press conference with President Yusuf, the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Meles Zenawi, stated that the new Government of Somalia

needed to move to Somalia at the earliest opportunity. Prime Minister Zenawi also urged the international community not to wait for stability to be established in Somalia before sending in a stabilization force. He stated that, although Ethiopia was stretched in the deployment of peacekeepers, it would consider extending support to Somalia if requested by the Government and people of Somalia and if authorized by the African Union. President Yusuf visited Kampala on 4 and 5 November and met with the President of Uganda, Yoweri Museveni, who is also the current Chairman of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). At a press conference on 5 November, President Museveni stated that Uganda was ready to offer troops to any force the African Union might call for to help Somalia. On 4 November, Prime Minister Gedi visited the United Arab Emirates to attend the funeral of Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan al-Nahyan. President Yusuf held talks with Yemeni leaders on 6 November. He also joined leaders from around the world to attend the funeral of Yasser Arafat, President of the Palestinian Authority, in Cairo on 12 November 2004.

III. Activities of the United Nations and the international community

11. On 29 October, donors meeting in Stockholm discussed options for a coordination structure of the international community and the Transitional Federal Government to oversee and guide assistance to Somalia. They requested the United Nations to take the lead role at the political and planning levels of the coordination structure. Donors felt that, in the immediate interim phase, a "troika" consisting of IGAD, the United Nations and the IGAD Partners Forum should represent the international community in a Coordination and Monitoring Committee for Somalia. The meeting also discussed a "draft protocol", which was amended and renamed "draft Declaration of Principles". Donors agreed that the draft would be discussed and revised as necessary in coordination with the Government. Donors also requested that the United Nations co-chair the Coordination and Monitoring Committee on behalf of the international community, along with the Transitional Federal Government. The Security Council welcomed this proposal in the statement by its President of 19 November 2004 (S/PRST/2004/43).

12. The first meeting of the Coordination and Monitoring Committee was held in Nairobi on 11 November. My Representative has since been chairing meetings of the Committee jointly with Prime Minister Gedi or his representative.

13. Staff of UNPOS attended the IGAD Partners Forum meeting in Addis Ababa on 3 November. The meeting reviewed developments in Somalia with satisfaction but emphasized the need for attention to the security problems in the country and the need for dialogue between the Transitional Federal Government and the authorities in "Somaliland". The meeting also expressed the hope that the Security Council, while in Nairobi later that month, would consider the question of Somalia during its deliberations.

14. The Security Council, meeting in Nairobi on 19 November, held an open session on Somalia that provided a platform for President Yusuf to address the Council, and an opportunity for Council members to ask questions regarding the Transitional Government's plans.

15. An inter-agency fact-finding mission from United Nations Headquarters, led by the Department of Political Affairs, visited Ethiopia and Kenya from 13 to 17 December to assess the progress made in the Somali peace process. The mission held talks with President Yusuf, the Speaker of the Transitional Parliament, representatives of IGAD countries, donor Governments, IGAD, the African Union and other organizations, Somali business representatives and the United Nations country team. The mission stressed the need to provide support for the outcome of the peace process.

The African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development

16. On 25 October, President Yusuf addressed the African Union Peace and Security Council in Addis Ababa, urging it to support his Government through the provision of 15,000 to 20,000 peacekeeping troops in order to restore peace and security in Somalia. He stated that the need for a peacekeeping force was based on the existence of an estimated 55,000 armed militiamen, 500 "technicals" and 2 million small arms in the country.

17. In response, the African Union, with funding support from Italy, organized a planning seminar for the stabilization of Somalia during the transitional period, on 4 and 5 November in Addis Ababa. The participants (representatives of AU, IGAD, the Transitional Federal Government, the League of Arab States, the European Union, the United Nations and others) suggested that a protection force and African Union verification and monitoring would be required in Somalia after an all-inclusive ceasefire agreement was concluded between the Transitional Federal Government and Somali armed groups. The African Union also held a seminar of security experts on Somalia in Nairobi on 15 and 16 December. On 5 January, the AU Peace and Security Council reiterated in principle the African Union's intention to deploy a peace support mission in Somalia, and approved the formation of an advance mission based in Nairobi to liaise with the Transitional Federal Government. The proposed mandate for the mission includes the protection of important installations, support for the efforts of the Transitional Government in the security sector and ceasefire monitoring activities. Reports indicate that the Sharia courts and extremist groups as well as some armed groups are opposed to the deployment of "foreign troops" in Somalia.

18. An IGAD special summit on Somalia was held in Nairobi on 14 October. The summit recognized the Government of President Yusuf and agreed that the IGAD Council of Ministers would hold talks with officials of AU, the United Nations, the Arab League, the European Union and the United States of America to make the case for a peace enforcement force in Somalia. The Summit also marked the end of the role that the IGAD Facilitation Committee had played in the Somali peace process. At a meeting held on 17 November in Nairobi, the IGAD Council of Ministers agreed to establish an IGAD monitoring and follow-up team to continue to support the Somali peace process as the successor to the IGAD Facilitation Committee. On 10 January, the Secretary-General of IGAD officially launched the Monitoring and Follow-up Team for Somalia in Nairobi.

19. In an IGAD communiqué issued in Abuja on 31 January, during the AU summit, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, the Sudan and Uganda expressed willingness to participate in a future peace support mission of the African Union in Somalia. On 7 February 2005, the AU Peace and Security Council authorized IGAD to deploy a

peace support mission in Somalia and called on the international community to support the IGAD mission, pending the deployment of an African Union mission.

IV. Developments inside Somalia

20. On 11 October, the "Somaliland" Cabinet, chaired by "President" Dahir Riyale Kahin, issued a statement reiterating the "sovereignty and territorial integrity" of "Somaliland" as non-negotiable and requesting the international community's help to prevent conflict between Somalia and "Somaliland".

21. On 25 October, the United Kingdom Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Africa, Chris Mullin, addressed the "Somaliland" Parliament. He encouraged the "Somalilanders" to avert any action that might hinder the progress made as a result of the Somali National Reconciliation Conference and encouraged them to open dialogue with the south in order to find a way of living peacefully together. At a news conference in Nairobi, Mr. Mullin offered the support of his Government for training Somali forces to disarm militias. He also pledged £3 million towards drought alleviation in Somalia.

22. An electoral law passed on 18 January by the "Somaliland" House of Representatives provides for the demarcation of district and regional boundaries; elections to be held in all "Somaliland" regions (including Sool and eastern Sanaag); a population census to be carried out; and voter registration and the issuance of identity cards to all "Somalilanders" to be completed before the elections. On 5 February, the "Somaliland" House of Elders (*Guurti*) passed the electoral law as presented by the House of Representatives. The law has caused concern about renewed tension between "Somaliland" and "Puntland" during parliamentary elections, which are scheduled for "Somaliland" on 28 March 2005.

23. At the request of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia, Ghanim Alnajjar, the "Somaliland" authorities unconditionally released Zamzam Ahmed Dualeh into his custody. She has since returned to "Puntland". Ms. Dualeh, who is 17 years old, was arrested on 15 August 2004 and was sentenced to five years' imprisonment on 15 December 2004 by the regional court of Hargeysa for alleged espionage.

24. In recent months, an unidentified group operating in Mogadishu has been targeting and assassinating prominent Somalis who had voiced support for the Transitional Federal Government. General Mohamed Abdi Mohamed and Colonel Mahamoud Batar were assassinated soon after the inauguration of President Yusuf. Muhammed Hassan Tako was assassinated on 9 November. All three assassinations were carried out in Mogadishu by masked gunmen. The three victims had publicly declared their support for the Transitional Federal Government, as well as for its request for peacekeeping troops for Somalia. On 8 January, a large number of people in Mogadishu demonstrated against the deployment of "foreign troops" in Somalia. A number of sheikhs and militias under the Sharia courts led the protest. Representatives of some of these groups are said to be purchasing heavy weapons including anti-aircraft guns and armoured vehicles, which are intended for use against any foreign force supporting the Government. Groups allied to the Mogadishu Sharia courts are also influential in Badade district in Lower Juba and Dhuusammarreeb in Galguduud.

25. In "Puntland", following the departure of Colonel Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed from the post of "President", the position was filled on an interim basis by Mohamed Abdi Hashi. On 8 January, the "Puntland" Parliament elected General Adda Musse as the new President for "Puntland". The General obtained 36 votes, while Mohamed Abdi Hashi obtained 30 votes.

26. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs facilitated several rounds of talks between Rahanwein Resistance Army factions, Dir and Marehan clans in Galguduud, and clans in Gedo region. The talks resulted in agreements to cease hostilities and to enhance humanitarian access to civilians. Faction leaders also agreed to restore stability in these areas and to relocate militias to camps outside the towns. The talks further served as forums to discuss the formation and better management of interim administrative committees. These efforts have allowed humanitarian access to some of the most acutely affected areas in the country.

Security

27. Intermittent fighting continues in Somalia, and the prevailing insecurity and violence continue to prevent the United Nations from implementing programmes in large areas of the country. Reports indicate large-scale violations of the arms embargo, not only by extremist groups and militias, but also by some Members of Parliament. The importation of explosives and heavy weapons is especially worrisome. Small arms proliferation is a major concern that needs to be addressed in the longer term, but the presence of large quantities of heavy weapons (tanks, artillery, anti-aircraft guns, multi-barrelled rocket launchers and heavy mortars) poses a more immediate problem. One solution would be to establish mechanisms to ensure that these weapons are placed in secure cantonments and effectively taken out of circulation.

28. Insecurity in Mogadishu has obliged the Transitional Federal Government to consider a phased approach for its return to Somalia and to perhaps start functioning in part in another city, possibly Baidoa or Jawhar. (Mogadishu, Kismaayo and the Somalia-Kenya border are at security phase five, while the rest of the country is at phase four). Violent crime remains common in Mogadishu. In addition, occasional clan disputes result in serious armed clashes with many casualties. One example was on 20 December 2004 when 17 people were reported killed in a confrontation among members of the Abgaal clan in northern Mogadishu.

29. While the security situation in the north has been generally quiet, security phase 4 is still in effect, in part because of attacks on aid workers in 2004. However, the continued confrontation between "Somaliland" and "Puntland" over control of the Sool and Sanaag regions remains a serious concern. Although both sides have deployed troops in the area since December 2002, there had been few armed clashes until November 2004, when several men from both sides were killed in a clash near Las Anod. The two sides sent reinforcements to the area and their rhetoric suggested that a serious confrontation was imminent. Confrontation was however averted following diplomatic efforts and the intervention of traditional leaders. A long-term solution has not been found, and the two sides continue to deploy troops in the area. Elsewhere in the north occasional incidents of inter-clan fighting have had a negative impact on United Nations operations. In "Puntland", police and militia

units regularly complain that they have not been paid and their protests frequently lead to the closure of roads and airstrips to United Nations and commercial traffic.

30. Widespread inter-clan fighting and banditry continue to have a severe impact on southern and central Somalia. A dispute in northern Galguduud and southern Mudug between the Saad and Suleiman sub-clans of the Habr Gedir led to widespread fighting and many deaths. The confrontation was triggered by a dispute over the control of a well and grazing areas. The worst incidents have included the reported deaths of 12 people on 2 December near Gelinsoor and 11 people on 18 January some 50 kilometres south of Galkayo. Unconfirmed reports suggest that tanks as well as "technicals" were used in these confrontations. There have been several attempts to resolve the dispute.

31. In Bay and Bakool regions, violent disputes among members of the Rahanwein Resistance Army have led to a proliferation of checkpoints which limit the movement of aid agencies. The most serious confrontation is between the Hadamo of the Rahanwein region and the Aulehan of the Ogaden, characterized by a series of revenge killings. The worst incident was the murder of nine Hadamo on 25 December near Eel Beerde. Tensions are reported to have escalated after Aulehan elders offered what was considered to be a wholly inadequate sum of "blood money" in compensation.

32. Tensions in northern Gedo have subsided following more than two years of inter-clan disputes. It appears that traditional leaders have been able to reach agreement over the control of Belethawa. There have been no major confrontations elsewhere in southern Somalia, although incidents of crime, violent disputes and militia checkpoints are common. In one incident on 8 December in Buale, an aircraft of the European Community Humanitarian Office was hit when a gunman opened fire in what appears to have been a labour dispute.

V. Humanitarian situation

33. Above-normal rainfall in most parts of Somalia during the short rains season (October to December 2004) brought a four-year drought to an end in December 2004. The rainfall provided relief in terms of water and fodder availability for the country's largely pastoral economy. Despite the intense rainfall, the humanitarian emergency has continued in drought-affected regions in the north and in parts of the south-central zone owing to the earlier loss of livestock assets, poor rangeland conditions, high household debt, and destitution. Conditions in the drought-affected areas in central Somalia continued to worsen as evidenced by high levels of malnutrition, ranging from 19 to 22 per cent. In the south, both the Gedo and Middle Juba regions remained in critical need of humanitarian assistance because of poor *Gu* (long rains) harvests in addition to chronic vulnerability.

34. In addition to livestock losses caused by drought, the north-eastern parts of Somalia ("Puntland") experienced extremely cold weather conditions and strong winds in November, leading to the deaths of 50 to 60 per cent of surviving livestock. This has led to increased destitution among the affected pastoralists, who were encamped in settlements along roads or have moved into urban areas in search of employment, leading to a significant growth in the number of internally displaced persons.

35. In regions of southern Somalia dependent on agriculture, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and local authorities, with support from donors, have responded by providing health services, targeted family rations and supplementary food aid. They have also subsidized water trucking, rehabilitated existing water sources, and supplied seeds. Interventions to support the remaining livestock and longer-term livelihood support programmes, mainly cash-for-work, are ongoing. A visit by the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator, Jan Egeland, in November 2004 served to raise international awareness of the immense humanitarian needs in Somalia.

36. Humanitarian access remains difficult in many parts of Somalia, especially in the south-central zone. Intermittent clan clashes and real and perceived security threats forced the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator to implement stringent security controls. In November 2004, the Office agreed to a flexible flight schedule into some airfields in the south-central zone in order to reach some 230,000 people in areas that can only be accessed by air because most of the roads are mined or in a state of disrepair.

37. Much of the Somali coastline was affected by the tsunami of December 2004, resulting in "Puntland" declaring a state of emergency. The livelihoods of many people residing in small villages along the coastline, particularly in the north-eastern regions, were devastated. Reports suggest that 150 lives were lost and 18,000 households were directly affected. The total affected population is estimated at 54,000 persons. In addition, a large number of fishing boats and much equipment were lost. The fact that the tsunami disaster occurred during the peak of the fishing season increased the number of people affected. A comprehensive needs assessment was carried out at the end of January and the results were made available to humanitarian and development partners.

38. The most urgent needs included drinking water, food and medication as well as support for the construction or rehabilitation of houses and shelter. The United Nations and non-governmental organizations mobilized immediate assistance, including food, non-food items, medicine, water and shelter materials. Access to the affected population was sometimes made difficult by poor communications and road infrastructure. Food trucks were stuck in the mud for hours at a time, forcing aid agencies to use four-wheel-drive vehicles, which slowed down deliveries because of the reduced capacity and scarcity of such vehicles. Apart from poor roads, some of the affected areas in Mudug region were inaccessible because of security concerns and could not be assessed either from the air or on the ground. The World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) started distributing pre-positioned emergency relief items the day after the tsunami hit. A multisectoral assessment to identify remaining humanitarian gaps and longer-term recovery needs was conducted at the end of January. The Somalia Tsunami Flash Appeal funding has been promising. Norway pledged $1.6 million towards coordination activities while other pledges continue to be received.

39. Drought and intermittent clan conflicts have resulted in the displacement of an estimated 400,000 people in Somalia who continue to live in extremely difficult conditions. Mogadishu, with some 250,000, has the highest number of internally displaced persons in the country. The United Nations and non-governmental

organizations are actively promoting use of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement to improve protection and assistance for internally displaced persons.

VI. Operational activities to promote peace

Governance

40. UNDP has been working closely with the Transitional Federal Parliament since its formation (see S/2004/804, sect. II). It has established a working relationship with the Prime Minister's Office and provides administrative and logistical support to the Transitional Federal Government for its move to Somalia. The mechanisms for budgetary support are also being put in place.

41. UNDP, the African Union and donors (Italy, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the European Commission) have set up the Somalia Demilitarization Planning Unit to develop a realistic framework and a joint implementation strategy for demilitarization. In a more immediate form of support to the Transitional Federal Government, UNDP plans to facilitate the training of 5,000 policemen in the south-central zone.

42. UNDP was selected by the "Somaliland" administration and humanitarian and development partners as the focal point for the Special Protection Unit. The Unit is part of the "Somaliland" police force, and has been set up solely for the protection of the premises and staff of international non-governmental organizations and diplomatic missions. The 300-person unit will provide round-the-clock security to offices and staff residences, as well as security patrols, a quick reaction response in emergencies and armed escort for staff travelling in "Somaliland".

43. Training of the custodial corps in "Somaliland" continues, with 30 cadets (28 male and 2 female) graduating in the last quarter of 2004. The training gives particular attention to human rights standards for incarcerated individuals. Staff of the internal affairs office set up in 2003 have completed their one year training and will begin to formally manage complaints against police officers in 2005.

44. Thirteen female cadets were recruited into the Mandera Police Academy from different parts of "Somaliland". Special support is given to the female cadets in terms of telephone allowances and travel costs to visit their families. The travel support helps relatives to see how their daughters are taken care of, as this is a new concept for people in "Somaliland".

45. UNDP has been conducting a settlement survey in all regions of Somalia, insofar as security conditions allow, to gather information on settlement and livelihood characteristics, income levels, cultivation, livestock, food security, availability of health and educational facilities, access to water sources, the impact of floods and drought, infrastructure, mines and governance. The data will be used to support poverty mapping and the formulation of strategies to alleviate poverty.

46. In the regions where peace and stability have allowed for repatriation, urban expansion has occurred haphazardly in the absence of zoning, building standards and density regulations. To address this, UNDP is supporting UN-Habitat in developing a land management information system by creating a spatial database through on-screen digitizing of high-resolution satellite images and collecting key building attributes through fieldwork.

47. The primary purpose of the database is to provide information for the collection of land use taxes so as to increase municipal revenues. It also facilitates urban planning, revenue collection, legalizing property ownership, developing postal systems and even the naming of roads. It will particularly help with the resettlement of internally displaced persons and disadvantaged groups into different areas. The Hargeysa land management information system was finalized in January 2005, and will be followed by a similar exercise in Burco and Boroma.

48. In a project under the low income countries under stress initiative of the World Bank, UNDP has launched a distance-learning project targeting the tertiary education sector. It will initially work with three universities, promoting better access to learning programmes and knowledge resources by students and faculty. Other partners include the African Virtual University and the ministries of planning and education in "Somaliland" and "Puntland".

49. With the support of UNDP, the Somali business community has created the Somali Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The private sector has played a key role in sustaining Somalia in the absence of a functional central government. The Chamber intends to enhance support for the Transitional Federal Government through a consultative approach and to foster networks within the region and globally, thus promoting investment.

50. During the last quarter of 2004, United Nations Development Fund for Women supported women members of the Transitional Parliament in sharing experiences with their Kenyan counterparts on how to lobby for bills and address gender-related issues. The women parliamentarians also discussed ways and means to initiate the necessary legal and constitutional structures for empowering women and protecting their rights.

Livelihoods

51. The four-year drought that struck parts of Somalia was declared an emergency in August 2004. To tackle this devastating problem, UNDP launched the sustainable livelihoods and drought mitigation programme, to improve water availability and grazing resources; increase income-generating activities targeting vulnerable groups; create an enabling environment for livelihood enhancement through microcredit and improved governance of local resources; and enhance the capacity of local communities and institutions for sustainable management of pastoral resources.

52. At least 50,000 people are expected to benefit from a project to rehabilitate the "Chinese canal" in Middle Shabelle, jointly executed by UNDP, local communities and the regional administration. The project aims to supply surplus flood water from the Shabelle River for irrigation and livestock use; regulate seasonal floods and limit their destructive effects; reduce siltation of irrigation infrastructure and environmental degradation; and improve agriculture and livestock production in the Middle and Lower Shabelle regions.

53. The project will also help to develop an effective community management structure for the operation and maintenance of the canal, composed of both farmers and pastoralists, that will manage the equitable distribution of water and help to minimize tension and clan conflicts.

54. It is also expected that internally displaced persons will be able to resettle on their farms. This will further reduce conflict over scarcity of resources, improve food security and provide income-generation sources for the local population and the administration. The more immediate benefit is job creation for the local people through food-for-work programmes with support from WFP. The project also provides an opportunity to engage current and former militia members in a constructive venture.

55. UNDP has been assessing the potential of the fisheries sector in "Somaliland", "Puntland" and the south-central zone by bringing together the key players in the sector; finding out what their development opportunities and constraints are and how those constraints could be addressed; and identifying investment opportunities for the private sector and the support required to attract such investment.

56. UNDP is continuing a process of gathering information known as territorial diagnosis and institutional mapping that identifies, plans and implements leveraged and targeted local economic development interventions for kick-starting economic opportunities and strengthening local capacities to drive economic growth. The process has been completed for Gargara and environs (Awdal region), Kalsheikh and environs (Sanaag) and Erigavo and environs (Saanag), in "Somaliland"; and in Dawad and Badey villages, Eyl district (Nugal) and Jariban and environs, including Garad (Mudug), in "Puntland".

57. In "Somaliland", projects amounting to $2.85 million were implemented by the United Nations and partners in the sectors of water, sanitation, education, health, community services, crop production and income generation. In "Puntland" and Mogadishu, projects in education, health and income generation amounting to $813,000 were completed. The "Together for girls" initiative, comprehensively addressing the reasons for girls dropping out of school, was implemented both in "Somaliland" and "Puntland" at a total cost of $786,000.

Health

58. Programme activities are under way in a partnership between the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and grant recipients to develop malaria control policies and strategies in the three zones of Somalia. These include a malariometric survey to collect updated epidemiological information and quantify the level of malaria endemic in Somalia; a "knowledge, attitudes, behaviours and practices" survey to collect information for malaria control and prevention actions; and a drug sensitivity study to qualify a new malarial drug regimen for Somalia. Results of the three activities are expected by February 2005. Partners will be focusing on harmonizing malaria training at the institutional level and at the level of service providers, through a survey to assess the training needs of partners and local authorities. Procurement of a second batch of 80,000 insecticide-treated nets is under way for distribution throughout Somalia, complementing the 80,000 that are currently being distributed.

Water and environmental sanitation

59. Water and sanitation activities in the south-central and north-eastern zones will be supported in the coming years through a European Community-UNICEF partnership recently established for the rehabilitation and construction of rural water and sanitation facilities and capacity-building of local and government counterparts.

This three-year programme is funded with €3 million. The European Commission has also established partnerships for work in the north-western zone and negotiations are under way for a partnership with UNICEF for urban water and sanitation programmes. The European Community-UNICEF partnership aims at ensuring access to safe water for nearly 1.5 million people and sanitation for nearly 500,000 people.

Child protection

60. There are few efforts currently under way in Somalia that provide psychosocial care and support to marginalized and vulnerable children or to children who are victims of violence, abuse and exploitation. On the basis of a thorough assessment of the situation and the capacity of partners, UNICEF has initiated a project aimed at strengthening the capacity of key child rights partners and developing a comprehensive long-term strategy to provide community-based psychosocial care and support to children in Somalia. Child rights partners have participated in both basic and refresher skills training in the field of psychosocial support and care. A comprehensive strategy for psychosocial care in Somalia is being finalized.

61. Nine functional child protection networks continue to meet on a regular basis throughout the country. Support to these networks includes information-sharing, technical support on specific protection issues, capacity-building, monitoring and reporting of protection violations and coordination with other organizations as well as international policy as it relates to abuse, neglect, violence, discrimination and exploitation.

HIV/AIDS

62. During the reporting period, the HIV/AIDS Global Fund task force continued to develop technical documents necessary to commence implementation of a five-year project. In October, UNICEF and its youth partners organized activities at various locations inside Somalia to commemorate the Somali youth and HIV/AIDS week. The activities included public debates, sporting events and school sessions aimed at raising awareness about HIV/AIDS, particularly about the vulnerability of young people, as well as accelerating the world AIDS campaign with a focus on women's and girls' vulnerability.

63. On and around World AIDS Day 2004 on 1 December, UNICEF supported the zonal HIV/AIDS coordination committees in staging various commemoration events, including a series of television debates and call-in programmes with religious leaders, local authorities, medical professionals and civil society activists; marathons and dramas focusing on messages to raise awareness and fight HIV/AIDS-related stigma; promotions and demonstrations; and leadership advocacy forums, both in Somalia and in Nairobi. The programme was organized jointly with the Offices of the President and the Prime Minister of the newly established Transitional Federal Government. Parliamentarians signed a joint declaration of commitment to prioritize the fight against HIV/AIDS, with a focus on fighting stigma and protecting the human rights of people infected or affected by HIV/AIDS, including access to prevention, care and support services.

Internally displaced persons and refugees

64. The programme for the reintegration of returnees and internally displaced persons has extended its operations into "Puntland". It is still at an early stage, having developed a framework, together with the "Puntland" authorities and stakeholders, to assist the reintegration of internally displaced persons and returnees. In "Puntland", the internally displaced population is estimated at 25,000 to 33,000, more than half of whom are under 18 years old. In "Somaliland", UNDP, other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations are assisting the "Somaliland" administration in consolidating ongoing and completed interventions through a reintegration matrix.

65. In 2004, a total of 17,952 Somali refugees (3,475 families) were repatriated to Somalia, of whom 9,513 (1,743 families) returned from Ethiopia and 8,422 (1,723 families) from Djibouti. As a result, the refugee camp of Hartisheikh in Ethiopia is now officially closed.

66. A total of 348 urban refugee households received assistance from UNHCR in Hargeysa. In addition, over 300 asylum-seekers were referred by the "Somaliland" authorities for refugee status determination interviews. UNHCR Somalia has requested support from its headquarters to assess the claims of these asylum-seekers. Approximately 1,800 foreigners were surveyed and key authorities and local officials were interviewed in major urban centres of "Puntland" in order to establish the size of the foreign population in the region and to determine their protection needs. The foreign population is estimated at almost 20,000, the majority from Ethiopia.

67. The comprehensive plan of action for Somali refugees, addressing the root causes of exile of Somali refugees, is in preparation. It is expected to be completed and subsequently endorsed by a high-level international conference in mid-2005.

Education

68. With a current primary gross enrolment ratio of 19.9 per cent and only 35 per cent of pupils being girls, the United Nations country team decided to make the attainment of goal 2 of the Millennium Development Goals a priority for the work of the United Nations in Somalia.

69. The achievements for the reporting period include the publication of the annual school survey conducted with the active involvement of Somali stakeholders, finalization of gender-sensitive educational policies for the north-eastern and north-western zones with a strong emphasis on life skills, HIV/AIDS and completion of a situation analysis study of education in Somalia from a gender perspective. Curriculum and textbook development for grades 5 to 8 has been completed. While the new grade 7 and 8 books are scheduled for distribution in the first quarter of 2005 UNESCO and UNICEF distributed textbooks to schools throughout the country at the ratio of one textbook to two pupils. A study on Arabic-medium schools was completed and dialogue started to achieve a common curriculum and conduct common public examinations. Teacher training through mentoring continued in addition to 2,500 teachers being given in-service training with the new grade 5 and grade 6 books in north-eastern and south-central Somalia. School improvement activities through provision of water and sanitation facilities were carried out including the provision of locally procured furniture to all new schools

in the north-east and the north-west. A pilot WFP school feeding programme was implemented, covering 23 schools and over 6,000 students, which will be extended to 60,000 students, throughout the country in 2005. The programme will target vulnerable groups.

70. The number of secondary students in Somalia increased by 20 per cent in 2004. New European Commission funding of about $10 million, secured by UNICEF and UNESCO will support primary schools and 33 secondary schools in north-western and north-eastern Somalia for a period of two years.

VII. Observations

71. The IGAD peace process has produced a power-sharing arrangement for a transitional period in Somalia, which stretches over a period of five years. While this has clearly been the most inclusive peace process ever, involving all clans and most major faction leaders, it cannot be said that either peace or reconciliation has been achieved or that the fighting inside Somalia has ceased. The challenges ahead are enormous.

72. Shortly after his election, President Yusuf sought a large number of peacekeepers from the African Union to help the Transitional Federal Government relocate to Somalia. Since then, a consensus has emerged that the most feasible option might be a protection force fielded by the African Union. In addition, protective measures will be required to ensure the safety and security of United Nations staff and other aid workers.

73. As the Transitional Federal Government begins to address its immediate priority, its relocation to Somalia, the Parliament, as a matter of priority, should seek an agreement from all faction and all militia leaders to cease hostilities and enter into immediate negotiations for a comprehensive ceasefire agreement. If requested, the United Nations would be ready to provide advice during the negotiation of such an agreement, subject to the availability of resources.

74. In consultation with the African Union, the United Nations is also prepared to support the African Union in the planning of a protection force. It is my hope that training programmes envisaged for foreign troops and Somali security forces would include a humanitarian and human rights component. In the area of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, the United Nations will continue to support the efforts and build on the experiences of United Nations agencies already involved in such programmes.

75. The deployment of any foreign military force in Somalia will require an exemption from the arms embargo on Somalia. This aspect notwithstanding, greater efforts should be made to enforce the arms embargo on Somalia. The recent report of the Monitoring Group on Somalia made it clear that extensive breaches of the embargo prevail and weapons and explosives continue to flow into the country. The enforcement of the arms embargo, with improved monitoring capacity and the establishment of enforcement measures, would considerably enhance overall security.

76. As encouraged by the Council (see S/PRST/2004/43), the Coordination and Monitoring Committee, chaired jointly by the Prime Minister of the Transitional Federal Government and the United Nations, has been established as a mechanism

through which donor countries and regional and subregional organizations provide support to the efforts of the Transitional Federal Government.

77. Stabilizing the humanitarian situation is an essential component of support for the peace and reconciliation process. The success of the new Government and the reconciliation process will depend not only on support from the international community, but also on the contribution of the Somali population at large, including civil society organizations. An immediate priority and obligation of the Transitional Federal Government should be to ensure humanitarian access to all Somalis in need and to provide guarantees for the safety and security of aid workers. The Government should also be encouraged and assisted to put in place measures to ensure the protection of civilians, especially displaced persons and minority groups, who do not enjoy clan protection and other forms of social support.

78. I would like to thank donors who are responding to the immediate needs of the peace process in Somalia. Aside from its earlier contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Peacebuilding in Somalia, Norway took the lead by providing $2 million from its 2004 budget to allow UNDP to meet some of the urgent needs of the Offices of the President and Prime Minister as well as 30 ministries. Italy has provided support to the Somali Parliament. I also express gratitude to donors who are supporting the consolidated appeal as the basis for emergency programming and fund-raising for 2005. I would like to stress that, while severe humanitarian crises in other parts of the world demand greater attention, humanitarian needs in Somalia should not be forgotten.

79. Ongoing efforts by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and United Nations agencies to reach out to non-traditional donors should be accelerated. In particular, Arab League countries, which are already contributing to Somalia, could do more. Community-based peace and reconciliation initiatives currently being undertaken in the humanitarian context should be expanded, as they are a good basis for national reconciliation. In the short term, a small contribution from the Trust Fund for Peacebuilding could go a long way in scaling up these activities.

80. If the Economic and Social Council were to establish an ad hoc advisory group on Somalia to examine the humanitarian and economic needs of the country and review relevant assistance programmes and prepare recommendations for the rehabilitation, reconstruction and development of Somalia, such a group would have an important role to play in supporting the peace process in the country.

81. In my previous report to the Council (S/2004/804), I pointed out the likelihood that progress in the Somali peace process would call for an expanded political presence of the United Nations to assist the Somali parties in implementing their agreement. At the same time, I stated that any enhanced role for the Organization must be incremental and should be based on the outcome of discussions with the new Government. Regular discussions with the Transitional Federal Government have now been initiated, primarily through the Coordination and Monitoring Committee. The United Nations has been asked by the Transitional Federal Government, the regional countries and the international donor community to take the lead in coordinating support to the Government to implement the agreements reached at the Somali National Reconciliation Conference and establish peace and stability in Somalia, and I have indicated in this report some areas where an expanded United Nations role will be required in the immediate future.

82. Such a role will include, among other duties: (a) assisting in the continuous dialogue among Somali parties for reconciliation; (b) assisting in the effort to address the issue of "Somaliland"; (c) coordinating support for the peace process with Somalia's neighbours and other international partners; and (d) chairing the Coordination and Monitoring Committee as well as playing a leading political role in peacebuilding activities in Somalia. Thus UNPOS staff will need to be augmented in the following key areas: political and military liaison, information, civil police, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and human rights. UNPOS will also have to provide secretariat services to the Committee. This will call for a higher profile leadership of UNPOS, especially considering that the United Nations, with the Prime Minister of the Transitional Federal Government, needs to co-chair the Coordination and Monitoring Committee, a pivotal body in the current stage of the peace process in Somalia. I intend to appoint a Special Representative, at the Assistant Secretary-General level, to lead the expanded United Nations role. He or she will be assisted by an augmented staff at UNPOS, including a senior deputy.

83. Meanwhile, I would like to commend the efforts of Winston Tubman, my Representative for Somalia, the staff of UNPOS and the United Nations country team, as well as the many governmental and non-governmental organizations engaged with Somalia, for their humanitarian activities and contribution to the international effort to help promote and support national reconciliation and peace in Somalia.